
SERMON NOTES AND SCRIPTURE

James 2:14–26

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? 15 Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

18 But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.”

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

20 You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless[a]? 21 Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. 23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,”[b] and he was called God’s friend. 24 You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

25 In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? 26 As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

1. Good works create good will, which opens up the door to share the Good News.

2. There is a difference between knowledge of and obedience to God's Word.

3. We are saved by grace through faith, and we live our faith to show God's grace.

TWO QUESTIONS:

1. Are there any areas of my life where I confuse knowledge of God’s Word with obedience to God’s Word?

2. What are some ways that my faith has resulted in good works over the past few months?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Please read the passage of Scripture together as a group.

Why is there a tension between faith and works?

How do you see that tension play out in the Church?

Over the past week or month, how would others in your life say your works have modeled your faith?

James argues how three different groups managed faith and works. He mentions demons, Abraham and Rahab. What point is he getting at?

How would you describe the difference between conviction and guilt in regard to works? How do conviction and guilt play a part in works for you?

How can our group pray for you this week?